

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 09220 01 OF 02 291843Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----291849Z 031112 /42

O R 291826Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1149  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 09220

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR - LOWENSTEIN

MOSCOW PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: FR, PGOV, PFOR  
SUBJECT: GISCARD CONCERNED ABOUT USG ATTITUDE TOWARD  
THE LEFT

REF: (A) PARIS 9089; (B) STATE 52714

SUMMARY: DURING LUNCH MARCH 29, ELYSEE DIPLOMATIC STAFF  
MEMBER CONFIRMED SECRETARY GENERAL FRANCOIS-PONCET'S  
INDICATION TO ME THE PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL-A) THAT  
GISCARD IS UNHAPPY WITH WHAT HE PERCEIVES TO BE NEW  
ATTITUDE OF USG ACCOMMODATION TOWARD FRENCH LEFT AND  
EUROCOMMUNISM. GISCARD IS PLANNING TO EXPRESS HIS UN-  
HAPPINESS TO SECRETARY WHEN THEY MEET APRIL 2. EMBASSY  
TAKING QUIET STEPS TO PLACE THIS ISSUE IN PERSPECTIVE  
AT THE PRESIDENCY, BUT BEST WAY TO COOL THINGS HERE  
BEFORE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IS FOR DEPARTMENT TO FIND  
WAY TO UTILIZE CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE RELATED TO  
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SECRET

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EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH PCF LAST FEBRUARY (REFTEL-B).  
SINCE CABINET RESHUFFLE MAY BE CAUSING FOREIGN MINISTER  
DE GUIRINGAUD TO POSTPONE VISIT TO ISRAEL THIS WEEK,  
SECRETARY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INVITING HIM TO INTIMATE  
BREAKFAST APRIL 2 PRIOR TO GISCARD MEETING FOR HEART-  
TO-HEART TALK ON THIS AND OTHER SUBJECTS. FINALLY,  
SEPTTEL RECOMMENDS ACTION FOR LONGER TERM SUPPORT TO

GISCARD. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING LUNCHEON ARRANGED TO DISCUSS OTHER SUBJECTS MARCH 29, DIPLOMATIC OFFICER ON PRESIDENTIAL STAFF TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO TELL EMBOFF ABOUT PRESIDENT'S UNHAPPINESS WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION'S ALLEGED CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FRENCH LEFT OPPOSITION. HE SAID GISCARD IS BASING HIS JUDGEMENT ON REPORTS OF SECRETARY'S PRE-INAUGURAL CONVERSATION WITH SOCIALIST LEADERS ROCARD AND COT PRIOR TO INAUGURATION, AND ON PRESS REPORTS OF EMBASSY OFFICERS MEETING WITH COMMUNIST LEADER JEAN KANAPA FEBRUARY 10.

2. IN SUMMATION, GISCARD FEELS IMAGE OF NEW US ADMINISTRATION CURRENTLY BEING PROPAGATED IN FRENCH MEDIA IS THAT WASHINGTON IS NO LONGER HOSTILE TO THE IDEA OF A FRENCH GOVERNMENT RUN BY THE SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COALITION. BY FAILING TO REFUTE PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT WE HAVE GIVEN "REASSURANCES" TO SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS THAT THE USG WOULD MAINTAIN NEUTRALITY IN THE ELECTION, AND WOULD DO ITS BEST TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH A LEFT GOVERNMENT, GISCARD BELIEVES WE ARE DOING DAMAGE TO HIS EFFORTS TO KEEP THEM FROM COMING TO POWER. IF MEDIA ARE EXAGGERATING ROUTINE US DECLARATIONS OF NEUTRALITY, GISCARD ASKS WHY HASN'T THE DEPARTMENT OR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY ISSUED CLARIFYING STATEMENT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT? SOURCE INDICATED THAT GISCARD'S DECISION TO CHANGE THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY FROM A BREAKFAST TO A MID-MORNING TALK MAY BE ONE SIGN OF PIQUE OVER HIS SECRET

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PERCEPTION OF US POLICY.

3. COMMENT: FACT THAT GISCARD AND HIS RULING MAJORITY COALITION HAVE JUST TAKEN A WORSE BEATING THAN EXPECTED IN NATIONWIDE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS HAS INTENSIFIED PRESIDENT'S EMOTIONS ON THIS ISSUE. WE ARE NOT THE SOLE CONVENIENT SCAPEGOATS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DISPLEASURE THIS WEEK. IT IS TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT REPEATED AND MISREPORTED PRESS ALLUSIONS TO SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ROCARD/COT, AND EMBOFFS' MEETING WITH KANAPA HAVE NOT BEEN HELPFUL. WE NOW ARE BEING MADE TO LOOK AS IF WE WOULD NOT BE TROUBLED BY A VICTORY OF THE LEFT. TO HIS CREDIT, JEAN-PIERRE COT TOLD ONE TV INTERVIEWER THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS ABSOLUTELY NO ENTHUSIASM

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-----291857Z 031186 /41

O R 291826Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1150  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 09220

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR A POSSIBLE LEFT VICTORY, BUT WOULD WORK WITH AN ELECTED LEFT GOVERNMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE MAIN IMPRESSION IS NOT THAT ONE. NOW THAT THE PRESIDENCY HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO BRACE THE EMBASSY WITH THIS ISSUE IN A FRANK MANNER, WE ARE TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO PLACE ALL THE FACTS AT THEIR DISPOSAL, AND DEMONSTRATE OUR POSITION IN A BALANCED MANNER.

4. TO FURTHER LIMIT THE DAMAGE, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO BALANCE THE USG'S PUBLIC IMAGE WHICH PRESIDENT FEELS IS TILTING AGAINST HIM WHEN HE IS ALREADY REELING FROM HIS ELECTORAL DEFEATS. EMBASSY THEREFORE AGAIN RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT UTILIZE CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON THE KANAPA MEETING TRANSMITTED REFTEL- B. THIS SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL SO AS TO CLEAR THE AIR AND RECEIVE MAXIMUM PLAY IN FRENCH MEDIA.

5. FINALLY, SECRETARY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INVITING DE GUIRINGAUD FOR AN INTIMATE HEART-TO-HEART BREAKFAST ON APRIL 2 IN ORDER TO GET HIM INTO THE PROPER FRAME OF MIND BEFORE THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND TO PRO-  
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VIDE MORE TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH NOW SOMEWHAT COMPRESSED BY PRESIDENTIAL 10 A.M. STARTING

TIME. THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS REPORTED LIKELY TO CANCEL HIS PLANNED VISIT TO ISRAEL BECAUSE OF CABINET RESHUFFLE TAKING PLACE WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY. ASSUMING HE SURVIVES THE SHAKEUP, WHICH IS LIKELY, HE WOULD HAVE MORE TIME TO DEVOTE TO SECRETARY'S VISIT TO PARIS.

6. SEPTTEL TRANSMITS EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION FOR HIGH LEVEL MEDIUM-TERM ACTION TO DEMONSTRATE SUBTLY OUR SUPPORT FOR GISCARD'S POLITICAL OBJECTIVES.  
GAMMON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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